

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA NEWS JULY 1-15 / PART 1

07/02/2012

US-FORECLOSURES-CALIFORNIA

VO: 29

California will become the first state to write into law much of the national mortgage settlement negotiated this year with the nation's top five banks, if state lawmakers approve wide-ranging legislation on monday. Majority democrats say they have the votes to send the homeowner protection package to gov. Jerry brown despite opposition from business and lending organizations. The legislation would require large lenders to provide a single point of contact for homeowners who want to discuss loan modifications. It would prohibit lenders from foreclosing while they consider alternatives to foreclosures. And it would let california homeowners sue lenders to stop foreclosures or seek monetary damages if the lender violates state law. The protections would benefit all california homeowners, not just those whose mortgages are with the five banks that signed the national settlement in february. And many of the restrictions would become permanent, while those in the nationwide agreement will end after five years.

SUMMER STORMS LATEST

MARIA EUGENIA PAYAN- MIAMI

PKG: 1:10

A new round of devastating heat and storms is hitting the southeast and mid-atlantic. At least seventeen people died over the weekend -- dozens more were injured after storms that started ripping through on friday night. Nearly two-million customers across seven states are still without power this morning. They've been told some of them will have to wait a full week to get it back.

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07/03/2012

LAW.FORCES.SEX.OFFENDERS

VO: 28

A new law in Oklahoma is forcing convicted sex offenders to live in tents. More than 40 sex offenders at the hand up ministries in oklahoma city had to move out of trailers on the ministry's property. The new state law limits the number of sex offenders who can live in one dwelling. The ministry's founder says without a place to live, many offenders won't register and could go back to prison. The argument should be making sure they comply with the same laws that everyone else has to comply with. You can't have multiples in a house, you can't have multiples in an apartment complex, why should we allow for all the trailer parks across the state of oklahoma to be exempt from that? Supporters of the new law say sex offenders who live together are the most likely to reoffend. The ministry's founder says he plans to file a lawsuit challenging the new law.

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07/04/2012

RENTAL RATES RISING FASTER

VO: 28

If you're looking for a new place to live, it may be cheaper to *buy* instead of rent. The real estate website trulia reports u-s rents rose an average of five-point-four percent over the last 12 months. In some areas, the increase was much higher. San francisco renters were paying nearly 15 percent more than they did a year earlier, the biggest jump among large cities. In smaller cities, fort worth, texas saw the highest spike - up 15-and-a-half percent. Analysts say the large number of former homeowners displaced by foreclosure have driven up demand for rental homes and apartments, and that sent rent prices soaring.

RAPID H.I.V. HOME TEST WINS FEDERAL APPROVAL

VO: 22

The availability of an h.i.v. Test as easy to use as a home kit is yet another step in the normalization of a disease that was once seen as a mark of shame and a death sentence. The, uses a mouth swab and gives results in 20 to 40 minutes. A previous test sold over the counter required a user to prick a finger and mail a drop of dried blood to a lab. Dr. Anthony s. Fauci, the longtime aids researcher and director of the national institute of allergy and infectious diseases, called the new test a "positive step forward" and one that could help bring the 30-year-old epidemic under control. Getting an infected person onto antiretroviral drugs lowers by as much as 96 percent the chance that he or she will transmit the virus to someone else, so testing and treatment have become crucial to prevention. About 20 percent of the 1.2 million infected americans do not know they have the disease, the centers for disease control and prevention estimates, and about 50,000 more get infected each year.

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07/05/2012

INTERNET WOES

VO: 29

The warnings about the Internet problem have been splashed across Facebook and Google. Internet service providers have sent notices, and the FBI set up a special website. But tens of thousands of Americans may still lose their Internet service Monday unless they do a quick check of their computers for malware that could have taken over their machines more than a year ago. Despite repeated alerts, the number of computers that are probably infected is more than 277,000 worldwide, down from about 360,000 in April. Of those still infected, the FBI believes that about 64,000 are in the United States.

Users whose computers are still infected Monday will lose their ability to go online, and they will have to call their Internet service providers for help.

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07/06/2012

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND LAW

VO: 27

The U.S. Department of Education is announcing that Washington and Wisconsin have won their bid to be relieved of some requirements of the federal "No Child Left Behind" law. The two states are joining 24 other states that have earned waivers from the federal education law. Washington state education officials confirmed their state's waiver. The Wisconsin waiver was reported by The New York Times. The department's formal announcement was expected Friday. The 10-year-old federal No Child Left Behind law requires all students to achieve proficient math and reading scores by 2014, a goal that many educators say is impossible. President Barack Obama's administration is granting waivers in exchange for promises from states to improve how they prepare and evaluate students. The waivers are considered a temporary measure while Education Secretary Arne Duncan continues to work with Congress to rewrite the law, which is formally known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Members of both parties agree the No Child Left Behind law is broken but have been unable to agree on how to fix it. While it has been praised for focusing on the performance of minorities, low-income students, English language learners and special education students, it has also led to a number of schools being labeled as "failing."

UNEMPLOYMENT REPORT

VO: 20

After two lackluster months, economists have a brighter outlook this week as the government prepares to release employment figures from June. Payroll provider ADP predicted businesses added 176,000 jobs last month. That's better than the revised total of 136,000 jobs it reported for May and, if sustained, would be enough to lower the unemployment rate. Goldman Sachs responded to the better data by raising its forecast to a gain of 125,000 jobs last month, up from its initial prediction of 75,000. A FactSet survey forecast that employers added 90,000 jobs last month, while the 8.2 percent unemployment rate didn't change. But that was before an improved report on weekly jobless claims. Economists typically say it takes at least 125,000 new jobs each month to absorb population growth.

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07/09/2012

COMPUTER'S VIRUS

MARIA EUGENIA PAYAN- MIAMI

PKG: 1:34

Fears that a computer virus might cut Internet access around the world appeared to be overblown on Monday after U.S. authorities removed a safety net that had protected infected machines for months. Shortly after midnight EDT, the authorities cut off computer servers in New York City that had been put in place to direct traffic for infected computers, which would have been unable to access the Internet without their help. Some blogs and news reports had warned that the shutdown of the servers could trigger a potential "blackout" and described the malicious software as the "Internet Doomsday" virus. But that did not happen. "All quiet," said Barry Greene, a security consultant who volunteers with the DNS Changer Working Group, an ad-hoc group of experts who teamed up to help fight the virus and educate the public about how to eradicate it. The working group was using the incidence of service calls to Internet providers as a barometer for measuring the impact of the sever shutdowns. As of Monday afternoon New York time, providers had seen no increase in call volume. "The outreach campaign has reached everyone humanly possible," Greene said. Victims of the virus originally required assistance because the virus had changed settings on their PCs, diverting Internet traffic through rogue servers that showed them advertisements.

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07/10/2012

9 BORDER PATROL STATIONS TO CLOSE

VO: 22

Nine Border Patrol stations to close; 41 agents to move to posts closer to borders A Border Patrol agent watches an area of the U.S.-Mexico border along the Rio Grande in Texas in 2010. Nine Border Patrol stations will be closed within the next six months to move 41 agents closer to the southern and northern borders, according to a spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection. CBP Spokesman Bill Brooks said the interior stations that will be shut are in some instances hundreds of miles from a border. He said the decision is in keeping with a strategy to use resources wisely and "increasingly concentrate our resources on the border." Attorney general will not face criminal contempt charge The stations that will be closed -- most of which are in Texas -- are:-- Abilene, Texas; San Angelo, Texas; Riverside, California; Dallas, Texas; San Antonio, Texas; Lubbock, Texas; Amarillo, Texas; Billings, Montana; And Twin Falls, Idaho. But the Federation for American Immigration Reform said the interior stations are a needed "second line of defense" to track down and apprehend illegal immigrants who make it past international borders and into heavily traveled corridors in the United States. Brooks said the decision has been in the works for some time, but local officials and the media are now being notified. He said the move was not influenced by any recent news events involving immigration. Five indicted in Border Patrol agent's death

TEXAS HEALTH REFORM

VO: 27

After the United States Supreme Court upheld the federal health care law on June 28, Republican officials in Texas suggested that they would fight the expansion of Medicaid and the exchanges, online marketplaces in which people shop for health insurance. On Monday, Mr. Perry made the state's position official in a letter to Kathleen Sebelius, the secretary of health and human services, calling both provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act "brazen intrusions into the sovereignty of our state." "Neither a 'state' exchange nor the expansion of Medicaid under the Orwellian-named P.P.A.C.A. would result in better 'patient protection' or in more 'affordable care,' said. "What they would do is make Texas a mere appendage of the federal government when it comes to health care." Mr. Perry's opposition to the provisions, while not surprising, angered Democrats and community health advocates in Texas. According to the Texas Medical Association, 25 percent of the state's population lacks health insurance - 6.2 million people, including 1.2 million children - the highest rate of any state. In Houston, the state's biggest city, 30 percent of the population is uninsured, while the rate is 34 percent to 37 percent in Brownsville and other cities near the Mexican border, according to the medical association.

LETTUCE RECALL OVER SALMONELLA CONCERNS

VO: 21

Some lettuce lovers in California and Nevada are being told to take a close look at their vegetable crispers. Pacific International Marketing is voluntarily recalling cases of bulk romaine lettuce because of possible salmonella contamination. They were sold at Vons and Pavilions stores in bulk produce bins between July second and fourth. The lettuce was banded with red twist ties reading "Safeway." The Food and Drug Administration says there haven't been any illnesses reported. No carton or bagged romaine lettuce are impacted by this recall.

GOVERNMENT TRACKS CELLPHONES

VO: 23

You probably know that law enforcement agencies can track where you are by checking out your cellphone records. But what you probably don't know is just how many requests to do that have been made. A new report to a member of Congress says law enforcement agencies in the U.S. made more than 1.3 million requests for consumers' cell records last year. That's a big increase over previous years. And it reflects the increasingly gray area between privacy and use of technology. Many of the cellphone requests came without search warrants. Civil libertarians say there should be more clarity about when and how carriers should hand over information about their customers.

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07/11/2012

HEALTH CARE-REPUBLICANS

VO: 23

House Republicans are looking for enough votes Wednesday to repeal the 2-year-old health care law. All GOP lawmakers are expected to support the repeal, and they're hoping some Democrats will join in. Even if the repeal is approved, it faces certain death in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

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07/12/2012

FACEBOOK - NEW ANTI-CYBERBULLYING FEATURES

VO: 27

Changes are rolling out on Facebook this week in an effort to fight cyber-bullying. The social network says it is adding tools to help victims of harassment and bullying more easily report the problems and hopefully resolve them. Teen users have more options when classifying unwanted posts from others. They're also given a short survey to rank how serious the issue is. For the worst cases, users will be directed to Facebook's suicide chat hotline or other professional help. Also changing -- complaints about photos and tagging. The new system makes it easier to distinguish between offensive photos like pornography or hate speech, and personal pics that just might be embarrassing. Facebook says the changes will be made available to all American users this week.

FORECLOSURES RATES

VO: 22

New foreclosure data show that banks are increasingly placing homes with unpaid mortgages on a countdown that could deliver a swell of new foreclosed properties onto the market next year. Foreclosure listing service RealtyTrac Inc. said Thursday that the number of U.S. homes entering the foreclosure process for the first time increased on an annual basis for the second month in a row in June. The increase comes as banks step up action against borrowers to tackle a backlog of mortgages behind in payments. The trend could end up creating a wave of bank-owned properties that would likely hit the market, but not before next year. RealtyTrac notes that it took an average of 378 days for a U.S. home to complete the foreclosure process in the second quarter.

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07/13/2012

VOTER REGISTRATION WOES

VO: 23

The form that arrived in the mail at Brenda Charlston's home in Seattle last month encouraged Rosie Charlston to register to vote. Problem is, Rosie was Brenda Charlston's black lab -- and she died in 1998. The Voter Participation Center has touted the distribution of some 5 million registration forms in recent weeks, targeting Democratic-leaning voting blocs such as unmarried women, blacks, Latinos and young adults. But residents and election administrators around the country report a series of bizarre and questionable mailings addressed to animals, dead people, noncitizens and people already registered to vote. Several election officials say their voter registration systems are secure enough to catch people who might improperly submit the documents. Others warn that ineligible voters who complete the documents could make it onto the rolls.

PAY: DIABETES AND COSMETICS

MARIA EUGENIA PAYAN-MIAMI

PKG: 1:05

Hidden in perfumes, scented lotions, food packaging and even synthetic leathers are a type of chemical called phthalates. Most people in the United States are exposed to phthalates, and levels tend to be higher in women than men. A new study in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives examines whether there is a connection between phthalates and diabetes in women. Researchers did find an association but did not prove that the chemicals cause diabetes. Researchers found that the risk of having diabetes was twice as high in women with the highest levels of certain phthalates, compared with women with the lowest levels. Looking at the data a different way, there would be about 40 extra diabetes cases per 1,000 women when women with high levels are compared to women with low levels. What explains

this association? One idea is that phthalates bind to cells in the body that manage blood-glucose metabolism and fat cell development.

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